Development of Roads to Cater Increasing Freight/Passenger Traffic

*9. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that: (i) The volume of road transport is growing at an average rate of 10%; (ii) The share of road freight traffic is increasing from 11% in 1951 to 65% by the end of the century, and; (iii) Passenger traffic on roads has increased from 25% to 80% and expected to increase substantially in the future;

(b) what are Government plans on road development to cater for this growth; and

(c) whether the investment required is commensurate with the budgetary allotments?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major thrust for the development of National Highways during the 9th Five Year Plan will be on four laning of the four corridors linking Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai and the roads leading to major ports. Action for carrying out feasibility studies are already on. Financially viable and bankable sections are proposed to be taken up under BOT scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

Pilferage of Titanium Alloy from Mumbai

*10. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had instituted an enquiry some time back into the case of pilferage of 1,000 kg. of Titanium alloy from Mumbai; if so, what is the status/outcome of the enquiry so conducted;

(b) what is the background of the case;

(c) whether the Delhi High Court has dismissed a petition recently in the matter as according to Hon'ble Court there was no need for interference from the court as an enquiry was already being done by the Defence Ministry; and

(d) whether his Ministry proposes to approach CBI or any other agency to help out in the investigation into the case, if so, the response thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. C.B.I. enquiry was ordered by the Government on 5.9.97, which is in progress.

(b) The consignment of 1,000 Kg. of the master alloy, packed in five containers, was stored in the godown of MIDHANI's clearing agent at Bombay. On post-delivery inspection in March, 1997, the alloy metal in the containers were discovered to have been mostly substituted by construction bricks.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As explained at (a) above, C.B.I. Enquiry has been ordered and is in progress.

Levy on Motor Spirit

*11. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on March 30, 1976, the Lok Sabha adopted a resolution laying down that an amount, "Not less than 3.5 paise per litre out of the duty of customs and of excise levied on motor spirit, shall be applied for the purposes of road development";

(b) whether this resolve of the Lok Sabha has been honoured in letter and spirit and, if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether Government would consider replacing "35 Paise" in that resolution by an appropriate percentage of customs and excise revenue on motor spirit?